

From: Anne Hernandez
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:02 PM
To: CEQA Guidelines
Subject: Comments on SB-743

Comments on SB-743

As a transportation professional, I am continuously frustration by the lack of mass transit operations found anywhere throughout Southern California. Each agency, especially Caltrans, are all doing their own thing. For example, I can take Metrolink from San Bernardino to Los Angeles for a morning meeting. However, if I wish to exit at any stop before that, I do not have a transportation link to where I want to go unless I hire a taxi. The bus options is not reliable. I know this from experience because my son tried to take the bus back and forth to school every day. He encounter about an average of one break down per week. A business person can't miss a meeting because the bus is broken down. An elderly person can't miss their doctor's appointment because the bus is broken down. Also no one can wait 1 ½ hours for the next bus nor spend that amount of time waiting each way.

I believe there is a movement including SB-743 which is attempting to force the mass transportation issue by forcing people out of their cars before the transportation facilities are in place.

I believe the issue isn't that you can't get the person out of the car. My experience has been that you can't get Caltrans, MTA, SANBAG, RCTC, etc to work together to develop a mass transportation solution. As a former Caltrans employee, I can assure you that I have never met a larger group of people who know it all but accomplish nothing. I also can't even begin to tell you the number of community meetings that I have attended where the government agency told the public what they were getting instead of listening to what the community wanted.

In my 30 years of preparing traffic impact studies, I have repeatedly seen the small business person get beat to death in providing transportation improvements and the large guys, especially those with political connections, getting all the breaks. Any policy proposed needs to address the small business person and their small business budget.

Anne M. Hernandez, P.E., QSD, QSP
Hernandez, Kroone & Associates